

Meeting Minutes for August 13, 2014

Members present: Larry Libby, chair; David Legere, Carol Korty, Doug Stewart and Anne LaBossiere.

Absent Alternates: Nancy Pochan and Linda Penkalski

Others in Attendance: Jane Fowler and Larissa Thomas

There were no comments from the Select Board or the Planning Board.

Meeting was convened at the Lamoine Town Hall by Chairman Libby at 7:08 p.m.

Topics Discussed:

1. Status of Trail Project:

David Legere reported on his efforts to contact area contractors who might be interested in submitting an estimate for the parking lot of the Simon Trail. Larry reported that Jerry Simon will dispose of the Spruce trees but not the Pines. David mentioned that a group of experienced volunteer “tree cutters” might be able to get down the trees without serious threat to life and/or limb. There was also some talk about how to handle any needed stump removal before the gravel is laid. Larry suggested that part of a bid by a contractor could also include the removal of stumps.

David has estimated that approximately 190 feet of bridging would be needed. As a follow-up to a series of conversations between David and Tom Sidar of Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC), the materials donated by FBC are already sitting on the Simon's property.

David has also done some trimming at the entrance of the trail head. He has observed that some downed trees on the trail need to be removed. David is also going to approach a rental company to see if it might be willing to donate the use of a “walk behind” chipper which would really expedite the clean-up process.

David also recommended that a few parts of the trail be better marked; the trail be cleaned up and bog bridging done in the fall.

2. Status of Water Quality Proposal:

Carol Korty explained the rationale behind the decision to not continue with the submission of the proposal. One of the more compelling reasons is the fact that it is too complicated to work out the details that need to be addressed in such a short period of time. The proposal process began to unravel at the time it was learned that the University of Maine's water quality testing lab is not certified by the State of Maine or USEPA. State certification of the organization evaluating the water is mandated by the terms of the town's gravel ordinance.

Carol has learned from John Holt that the issue of evaluating the water quality will be addressed through the “amended” gravel ordinance. Carol said that Michael Jordan had been very helpful during the writing of the application. She also shared some information that appeared in a recent newspaper article about the increasing concern of an increase in arsenic in the drinking water in Southern Maine. She mentioned that John Peckenham will be participating in a conference at MDI Biological Lab re: arsenic.

Carol did stop into the Ellsworth Planning Office to update Michelle Gagnon on LCC's decision to not go forward with the application. Ms. Gagnon was not in, but her assistant, Elena Piekut, told Carol that ours was a unique and interesting change from the other proposals who were mostly dedicated to address septic tank leakage. Kudos were given to Carol for her work on this application. She said that the town has lost out on a great opportunity due to the factors previously mentioned in these notes.

3. Possible Public Meeting for Fall

a. Blunt's Pond presents a great opportunity for consideration due to its biological and historical attributes. Carol mentioned that there has been some plant growth noticed in the pond that might not be a welcome addition. There was discussion about who might be helpful in determining the type of plant that has been noticed and its possible impact on the pond. It was suggested that Hancock County Planning Commission might be a good resource for us to tap.

b. The possibility of checking with Chris Myer, manager of the Lamoine Transfer Station, re: his doing a public meeting on recycling, trash disposal was suggested but not further developed for consideration.

c. Lamoine's wildlife (birds, bats, bees, bears and beyond) might be of interest to the public.

4. Other

a. **Role of the Conservation Commission.** Doug Stewart asked if we had departed from our mission and lost good will from some of the residents due to the participation of some LCC members in the effort to pass the recent gravel referendum. It was clarified that the LCC members who had volunteered had done so as citizens of the town representing themselves and not the LCC, There was some discussion about the efficacy of having a workshop to look over the **Ordinance to Establish the Lamoine Conservation Commission** to give us a better understanding of our role. No action was taken.

b. **LCC Membership.** Carol Korty will be submitting her resignation to Stu Marckoon. Linda Penkalski has expressed her interest in moving from an alternate status to that of a commissioner. Larissa Thomas is interested in becoming an alternate when an opening occurs. She will let Stu M. know of this. Carol's membership on LCC will be sorely missed. Her contributions have been too numerous to list for inclusion in this document.

c. **Adopt-A-Highway Signs.** Georgia Munsell let Larry Libby know that signs are now in place on the Jordan River and Buttermilk Roads. All entrances to Lamoine now have these signs.

d. **LCC Archives.** Anne LaBossiere distributed copies of the rough draft of the process to access materials housed in these archives. There was discussion about the need to have some back-up for these archived materials before making them available to those outside of LCC.

Motions and Outcomes:

The [minutes of the July meeting](#) were approved.

Follow-up Actions and Who Will Do Them:

1. Larry will continue his coordination of the efforts to get the contractor selected to begin work on the Simon Trail parking lot.
2. Doug Stewart will call the Hancock County Planning Commission to see what they might be able to do in regards to checking the type of plant growth that has been detected at Blunt Pond and perhaps be able to suggest some mitigation of it.
3. Larissa Thomas will check with a biologist at Acadia National Park to see if he is available to do a public meeting re: area wildlife this Fall.
4. Carol Korty will do some more work on the LCC Archives and will be joined in this endeavor by Larissa Thomas. Consideration will be given as to how the archives might be electronically “backed up.”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Anne LaBossiere, Secretary and approved on _____.